

SECRET

25X1

-3-

25X1

25X1

Although many individual members of the Agrarian Youth Party are still convinced of the correctness of their political doctrine, they have been advised by the leaders and more moderate members of the party not to try to form a subversive organization. Many members were ready to go underground and some had already begun to organize. But the utter hopelessness of the situation would, in due time, mean the complete elimination of all concerned, especially since the militia is ready to pick up and destroy anyone against whom even the slightest suspicion arises. Some of the more outstanding leaders of the Agrarian Youth Party were picked up right after the movement was abolished. They were taken to re-education camps where they were intimidated and cowed into admitting that they were the wrong beliefs. Plans had been made to let the Agrarian Party go underground if and when opposition became too strong. But this was discouraged by the top party leaders who felt it would be better to keep alive as many people with moderate political opinions as possible. This would be extremely difficult if the Agrarian movement went underground. Many of the former leaders such as Pavlov are keeping alive today by going into business for themselves. Pavlov is studying to be a chauffeur. These men are shadowed constantly. Occasionally "agents provocateurs" are sent among them but these agents work with so little finesse that they cannot be considered dangerous.

Many of Pavlov's former followers who have signed statements admitting their error in following Pavlov have told me personally that they did so because they believe it will be at least another 15 or 20 years before there is any chance for a successful opposition to the present regime. They could see no reason for refusing to sign the papers and spending all that time in jail. My husband's opinion was sought in this matter. [redacted] by a group of leaders gathered together for a conference one day, to ask my husband for his opinion about how much time would probably elapse before a conflict with the USSR and the US was even a remote possibility. Upon learning his answer they decided to sign the papers renouncing their faith in the political ideas for which they had stood. The Communists were well aware that they had not actually changed their beliefs, and informed them at the time the papers were signed that their use would be solely for propaganda purposes.

25X1

25X1

25X1

among leaders of the opposition Agrarian Party [redacted] there is some definite difference of opinion within the Communist Party as to what constitutes true Communism and what does not. But those who hold the view opposed to that of Dimitroff see no chance in the foreseeable future of advancing their beliefs, and consequently they will keep quiet until a conflict breaks out between the USSR and the US. Everyone in informed circles in Bulgaria considers such a war a remote possibility within the next 15 years. But when such a war comes about, and when the overwhelming power of the present regime is under strain, it is possible that the more idealistic Communists will endeavor to offer a determined opposition to what they now consider a "bastardization" of their true religion.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-3-

25X1

[] there is a definite lack of understanding of the true problems of Communism in Bulgaria on the part of the group indoctrinated and trained in the USSR. This group which is now in power will eventually clash with the group of old Communists of the theoretical wing who have been raised in Bulgaria and see the problems of Communism in the light of the situation in Bulgaria rather than in the light that the Kremlin puts on matters. At the moment there is no doubt that Dimitrov runs the country. He is rather slow-witted and narrow-minded, lacking both in perspective and practical knowledge. He takes his orders from Kozlov and pays no attention to his own politburo or any other person he has gathered around him. Although Dimitrov is totally ignorant of all technical matters, he orders and controls practically the whole Government. Even though his subordinates may know better, they execute his orders with great faithfulness. They are so afraid of the power he holds that they bring reports to him as they imagine he would want them to be. This may account for the great lack of understanding which Dimitrov sometimes shows regarding the current situation. Examples of this are his propaganda and his insistence on a Slavic federation which he imagined the Kremlin wanted and for which he considered the time more than ripe.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Within the militia the same slight friction exists that is evident elsewhere in the Government between the Soviet-bred Communists and the Bulgarian Communists.

25X1

6.

25X1

[] Lev Glavinchev slightly from gossip that used to go the rounds among the leading politicians. [] he is working with Bulganov in charge of the border security troops. He has always worked closely with Bulganov and is probably continuing to do so. [] heard no rumors that Glavinchev is travelling through Europe to contact party members, but this is a possibility since he is purportedly Jewish, which would make him an excellent liaison agent.

25X1

25X1

6.

25X1

A Balkan or South Slav Federation is a very definite possibility. [] no reason why it will not be accomplished when the Kremlin considers the time ripe. [] no reason why a Balkan Federation should not come about within 10 years. The people of all these nations feel a strong common bond, due to the similarity of their language and the identity of many customs and habits.

25X1

7.

What is the reaction of the peasants to the present regime?

25X1

8.

SECRET

25X1

~~SECRET~~

-4-

25X1

9.

25X1

25X1

When the Soviet military left, the food situation in Bulgaria improved markedly. Since then, within the next four months, it has become worse. [redacted] many Soviet citizens are returning to Bulgaria, although this is difficult to ascertain. [redacted] some [redacted] had to give up their apartment because the Soviets were taking over the building. It is likely that these civilians are supervisory personnel for the many ex-German organizations that have now been taken over by the Russians.

25X1

25X1

10.

25X1

25X1

25X1

The Bulgarian people maintain a friendly attitude toward the people in the countries around them. They consider that those in Rumania and Yugoslavia are all in the same boat, that is, under the same type of regime that they are themselves. When they read about "the great workers in Yugoslavia who have again surpassed their quota by 50%," they say to each other: "Yes, that's what they write in the papers about us, but we know very well that today we haven't got the implements to produce what we used to produce before the war, and the fact that we have less to eat today isn't due to any greater production, no matter what they say in the newspapers." In other words, the average man refuses to identify those in the countries around Bulgaria with the regime controlling those countries, just as he refuses to be identified with the regime controlling his own country.

11.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Teankov was recently arrested as a war criminal by the Austrian authorities. The Agrarian Party members were critical of the Americans for not having arrested Teankov themselves. Petkov used to protect the Americans by declaring that they were just letting Teankov go temporarily until the Agrarians were in power so they could turn him over to the Agrarians instead of the Communists. It is highly unlikely that any of the former fascist ministers (Teankov, Popov, Kostov, and others) now in the US Zone of Germany or Austria would have organized any group with which they are in contact in Bulgaria. It is not very likely that they are in contact with anyone at all.

12.

25X1

25X1

Until recently Velchev was the Bulgarian Minister to Switzerland. [redacted] He is now living in Switzerland in retirement. Next to OM Dimitrev, who is in Washington, Velchev is the most popular man in Bulgarian public opinion today. He was a great friend of Petkov and a personal friend of mine. He is the one man in Europe today who could possibly rally some people within Bulgaria around him for an organized resistance if the US were to show any evidence of active support.

13.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Sarbinsky openly denounced his good friend Petkov just before the trials. [redacted] he wrote a letter afterward to Petkov [redacted] describing how the denunciation was obtained from him. A

continual interrogation for six days and nights had finally obliterated all semblance of coherent thought. When Sarbinsky regained consciousness, it appeared that he had signed a denunciation. This same process was applied to obtain a confession from Stoyanov, another defendant in the trials.

When Dr Ganev was one of the three regents, Petkov and Pavlov used to visit him and request him to take certain actions to help present the spread of Communism. He would agree with them and promise all sorts of actions, only to forget about them when his guests had gone. As a leader of the Civil Rights Group, Ganev protested the execution of Petkov, of course, as they protested the execution of most other people. But they did not back this protest with action of any kind. Dr Ganev was a professor [redacted]

25X1

SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500830185-3

SECRET

-5-

25X1

14.

25X1

In the senior officer circles of the Bulgarian Army and among former ranking Army officers there is a feeling very similar to the one that used to exist in Germany among the Junkers. They realize that at present the Communists are the only party that will help them back into power and help them restore the Army. In due time, if and when they are strong enough, they will let the resentment that they feel for the politicians get the better of them. This attitude of the Army towards the present regime is typified by General K Stanchey and Colonel Daltri Stambolchiov, Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Military Alliance Group. They were arrested.

15.

25X1

-end-

SECRET

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1

SECRET

-5-

25X1

14.

25X1

In the senior officer circles of the Bulgarian Army and among former ranking Army officers there is a feeling very similar to the one that used to exist in Germany among the Junkers. They realize that at present the Communists are the only party that will help them back into power and help them restore the Army. In due time, if and when they are strong enough, they will let the resentment that they feel for the politicians get the better of them. This attitude of the Army's towards the present regime is typified by General K Stanchey and Colonel Dimitri Stambolchiev, Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Military Alliance Group. They were arrested.

15.

25X1

-end-

SECRET

~~SECRET~~